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## WKU, SKYCTC band together for engineering pathway

AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 29 min ago

A new engineering pathway between Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College and Western Kentucky University is offering students a smoother path to a four-year degree.

Both schools have agreed to promote the transfer of credits and share educational opportunities for students seeking engineering degrees, according to a news release from SKYCTC.

“Engineering is one of the most highly technical and in-demand professions across the Commonwealth of Kentucky,” SKYCTC President Phillip Neal said in the release. “SKYCTC is proud to partner with WKU in creating a transfer pathway for students to complete an associate degree and the first two years of their civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering education at a community college, and finish the remaining portion of their engineering bachelor’s degree at one of Kentucky’s finest universities. This opens doors for local residents to enhance their career while giving local industry a stronger applicant pipeline.”

The pathway has general education courses for engineering students, such as university physics, chemistry and higher-level calculus courses. SKYCTC has also added engineering courses, the release said. SKYCTC plans to create an advisory board and invite industry and WKU representatives to periodically review the curriculum. SKYCTC students will also be able to participate in WKU engineering clubs and Expo Day activities.

Lisa Hunt, dean of academic services at SKYCTC, told the Daily News that starting off at a smaller school can help students ease into their postsecondary careers.

“Our small class size really makes a difference for students,” Hunt said, adding it gives them a chance to get to know their instructors.



Ultimately, the goal is to move more graduates into the workforce.

“Our School of Engineering and Applied Sciences is focused on workforce development,” said Stacy Wilson, director of WKU’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. “There is a desperate need for engineering graduates everywhere. Getting more students into the pipeline and out into the workforce is important, and this agreement is another pathway to an engineering degree.”

*– For more information on the engineering pathway at SKYCTC, visit [southcentral.kctcs.edu](http://southcentral.kctcs.edu) or call 270-901-1000. For information about WKU Engineering programs, visit [wku.edu/seas](http://wku.edu/seas) or call 270-745-3251.*

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